

AWARD WINNING!

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SCIENCE+ANIMALS+PUZZLES+PEOPLE+APPS+PHOTOS+BOOKS+SPORTS+SECRET POLAR BEARS

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Making sense of the world

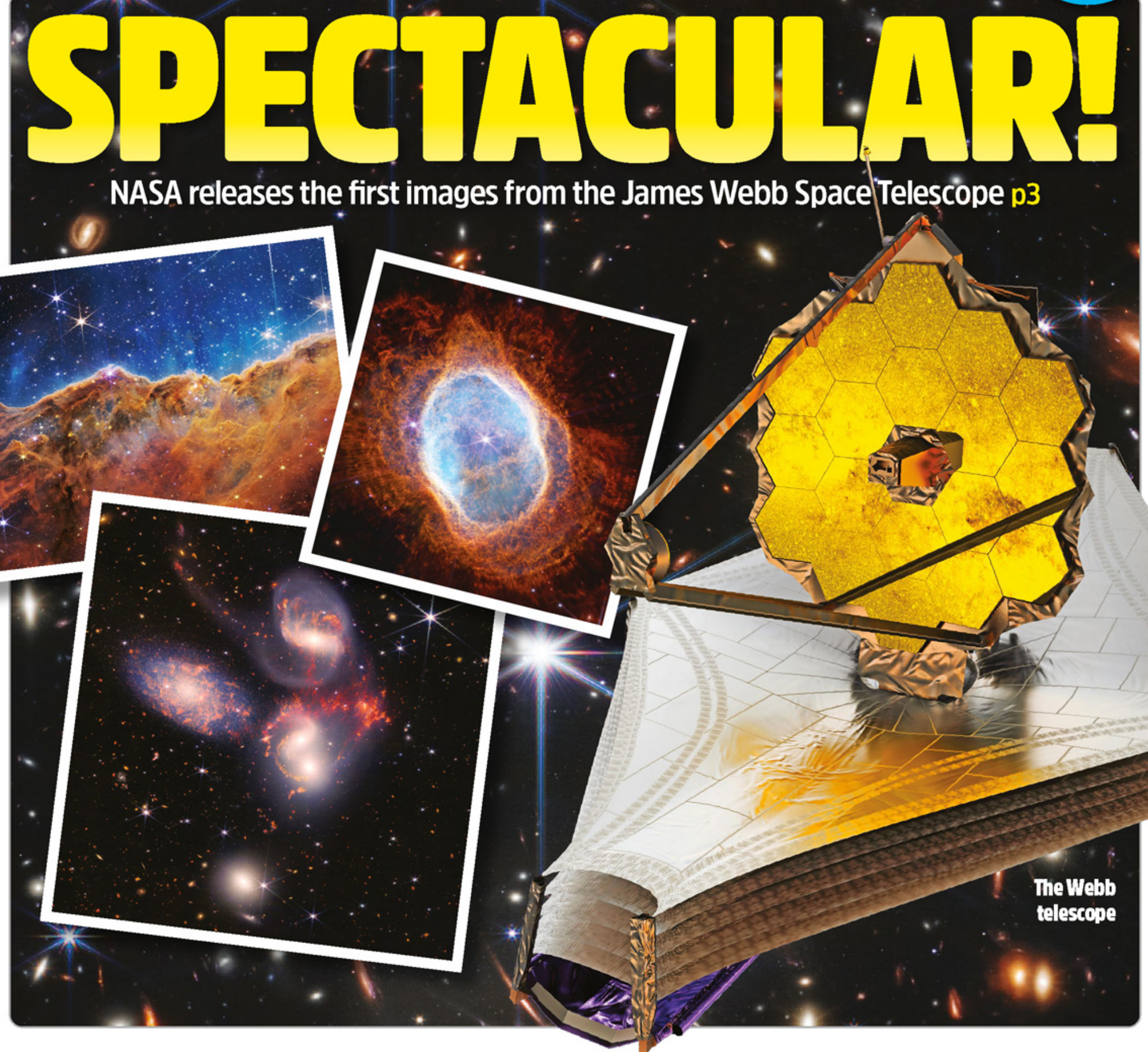
# THE WEEK

## Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

# SPECTACULAR!

NASA releases the first images from the James Webb Space Telescope **p3**



The Webb telescope





# This week's big news

## DID YOU KNOW?

After nearly 150 years of British rule, Sri Lanka became an independent nation in 1948.



Protesters at a government building in Sri Lanka

## Sri Lanka fact file



- **POPULATION** 22.1 million
- **LOCATION** The island nation is located in the Indian Ocean, just off India's southeast coast.
- **CURRENCY** Sri Lankan rupee
- **LANGUAGES** Sinhala and Tamil
- **RELIGIONS** Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity
- **ECONOMY** The nation is largely agricultural, and its main exports are tea, rubber, gemstones, and clothing.

# Government unrest in Sri Lanka

On July 16, the government of Sri Lanka began the process of choosing a new leader after months of protests drove its president to flee the country. The South Asian nation faces the task of rebuilding from a devastating economic crisis.

## What happened?

In March, millions of Sri Lankans began protesting the government and calling for the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who is known as Gota. The next month, his entire cabinet (top advisers) resigned, but Rajapaksa did not. Protests continued, and on July 9, people chanting "Gota, go home" broke into the president's offices and residence. Rajapaksa quickly left the country on a military plane and resigned before appointing Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe as acting president. The capital city of Colombo returned to a relative calm.

## Why is this happening?

Sri Lanka is facing a massive economic crisis. Food prices have doubled this year because of inflation (the rate of increase in the prices of goods and services), so people are going hungry. Severe fuel shortages have caused people to wait in line for up to 10 days for gasoline, and schools

and offices have closed. Many Sri Lankans blame government leaders, including Rajapaksa and his family, who have ruled the country for nearly 20 years. International economic experts said the Sri Lankan government had done a poor job of managing the nation's finances, leading to foreign debt (money it owes to other countries) of \$50 billion. The government, however, said global issues were to blame. Leaders said the Covid-19 pandemic has affected tourism, which is a source of income for Sri Lanka, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine has made food and fuel more expensive around the world.



Ranil Wickremesinghe

## Who is leading Sri Lanka?

Wickremesinghe was sworn in as interim (temporary) president on July 15. He is unpopular, however, and unlikely to stay in power. He lost in past presidential campaigns, was defeated for his own seat in Parliament (similar to Congress) in 2020, and is closely tied to Rajapaksa.

In a televised statement, Wickremesinghe said he would seek to change the nation's constitution to reduce the powers of the president, strengthen Parliament, and restore order. He declared a nationwide state of emergency, which gives the

government special powers to break up protests and impose a curfew (requiring people to stay indoors during specific hours, usually at night).

## How did people react?

When Rajapaksa resigned, Sri Lankans celebrated in the streets and lined up to enter the presidential palace and offices. Some swam in the former president's pool and had picnics on his lawn. After Ranil Wickremesinghe took over as acting president, however, protesters expressed anger, saying that Wickremesinghe is as bad as Rajapaksa was. "We are protesting against Ranil," said one demonstrator, adding that if Wickremesinghe wins the vote to become the next president, "we cannot have stability." Neighboring countries expressed support for Sri Lanka. An official in India said his nation stood behind the people in their determination to have better lives.

## What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press, there were three candidates for president, including Wickremesinghe. A vote to select the new leader was set for July 20. The next president will need to repair Sri Lanka's economy. Several countries, including the UK and India, said they would help Sri Lanka pay off its debts. Rajapaksa was in Singapore, and his next move was unclear.





## Hidden van Gogh portrait revealed

Art experts in the UK uncovered a previously unknown self-portrait by Vincent van Gogh on the back of another painting by the artist. Staff at the National Galleries of Scotland were x-raying van Gogh's painting *Head of a Peasant Woman* in preparation for an upcoming exhibit when they spotted the hidden work.

Van Gogh was a famous Dutch painter who lived from 1853 to 1890. His best-known paintings are landscapes, self-portraits, and flowers. He often reused canvases to save money, turning them around and painting on the back. The self-portrait shows a bearded van Gogh in a wide-brimmed hat and was covered by layers of glue and cardboard. Experts hope to remove these materials to reveal the painting without damaging the canvas.

For now, visitors to the exhibit, which is set to run from July 30 to November 13, can see the painting on the front as well as an x-ray of the work on the back. The find was "thrilling," said Frances Fowle, an expert at the museum. "Moments like this are incredibly rare."



The painting

The x-ray



**SEEING IN SPACE**

When the Hubble Space Telescope launched in 1990, it was the most advanced space telescope ever.

This image, the first taken by the Webb telescope, shows some of the earliest galaxies ever formed.

## Space telescope's first images

The US space agency NASA has released the first images captured by the James Webb Space Telescope, the most powerful telescope ever put into space. The Webb launched in December 2021 with a mission to see farther into space and farther back in time than ever before and to observe faraway planets for signs of life.

On July 11, NASA and the White House released an image of thousands of galaxies, including some of the first ever to form. Light takes billions of years to reach the telescope, which means the Webb is seeing the galaxies as they existed about 13 billion years ago. Additional images released by NASA the next day depicted a cloud of gas and dust where stars are born, a distant planet's atmosphere, and a dying star.

The Webb is the result of a \$10 billion, 25-year project led by NASA and supported by the European and Canadian space agencies. Named after former NASA head James Webb, the telescope is about 100 times more powerful than NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, which is still operating after more than 30 years. The Webb collects and analyzes infrared light, a type of light that humans can almost never see, using 18 mirrors covered in a thin layer of gold. The Webb also has a sunshield the size of a tennis court to help keep it cool.

This is just the beginning of the Webb's mission, which is expected to last at least five to 10 years. NASA official Thomas Zurbuchen described the first images as "a stunning glimpse of the insights yet to come."



## IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

### A SUMMER COMEBACK

A Pennsylvania grandmother has gotten an old summer job back. When local pools closed due to a lifeguard shortage, Robin Borlandoe, age 70, became a lifeguard again—a job she'd had at age 16. It's "for our kids, our community," she said.



Robin Borlandoe



Party animals

### A STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

Children in Goleta, California, dropped off their stuffies for a special overnight library event. At the stuffed animal slumber party, librarians took photos of the toys making s'mores, playing games, and goofing around on library equipment. It "put smiles on the kids' faces," said one parent.

### HONORING A LEGEND

A new Barbie doll modeled after Dr. Jane Goodall, a naturalist who became famous for her work with chimpanzees, has been released by the toy company Mattel. The doll, made of 90% recycled plastic, comes with a pair of binoculars, a notebook, and a figurine of David Greybeard, a chimp Goodall befriended in Tanzania. Goodall, age 88, said she is "absolutely delighted" by "Barbie Jane."



The doll and friend



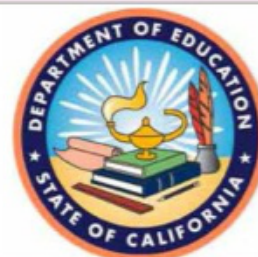


## DID YOU KNOW?

With more than 39.1 million people living there, California has the largest population of any state.

Getting enough sleep can help kids concentrate.

## California public schools



California has the largest public school system in the US. In the 2020–2021 academic year, it had more than 6 million students enrolled in 10,545 schools. More than 55% of students were Latino, about 22% were white, 9.5% were Asian, and more than 5% were Black. Texas has the second largest system, with 9,002 schools.

# California moves back school start time

Students in California's public middle schools and high schools will have a later start to their school day when classes resume for the 2022–2023 year. Because of a new state law going into effect, first period classes can't begin before 8 am or later. The law is the first of its kind in the US.

## What happened?

In 2019, California lawmakers passed a bill requiring that school days begin no earlier than 8:30 am at public high schools and 8 am at public middle schools. The law went into effect on July 1. The change means that California high schools will open about 30 minutes later than the average US start time. The new hours will apply to the state's 1,314 public high schools and 1,274 middle schools.

## What led to the changes?

Studies have found that an early school start time makes it difficult for teenagers to get the sleep they need, which can be up to 10 hours a night. One reason is that, compared to other people, teenagers are wired to fall asleep later at night and wake up later in the morning, due to a shift in their circadian rhythms (the body's process for regulating the sleep-wake cycle). Teenagers who lack adequate sleep may not do as well in class and may be more likely to develop physical and mental health problems, experts have said.

## How did people react?

Advocates who pushed for the change said kids will benefit. "We know that teenagers are the most sleep-deprived age group," said Joy

Wake, who led efforts to get the law passed in California. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control (US health protection agency) support schools starting at 8:30 am or later. Getting one more hour of sleep could lead to long-term health benefits for teenagers, experts said. Opponents of the later start time said it could cause scheduling problems for some families and that it could be difficult to change bus routes and after-school schedules.

## What will happen next?

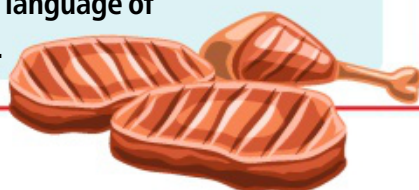
California schools will adopt the new schedule when students return from summer break. Several other states, including Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey, are now discussing whether to implement a similar law.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### BARBECUE

The word "barbecue" is an example of the thousands of words that the English language has borrowed from other languages. Barbecue comes from the Spanish *barbacoa*, meaning a raised wooden frame to cook meat over a fire. "Barbacoa" itself was probably borrowed from the Taino language of the Caribbean.

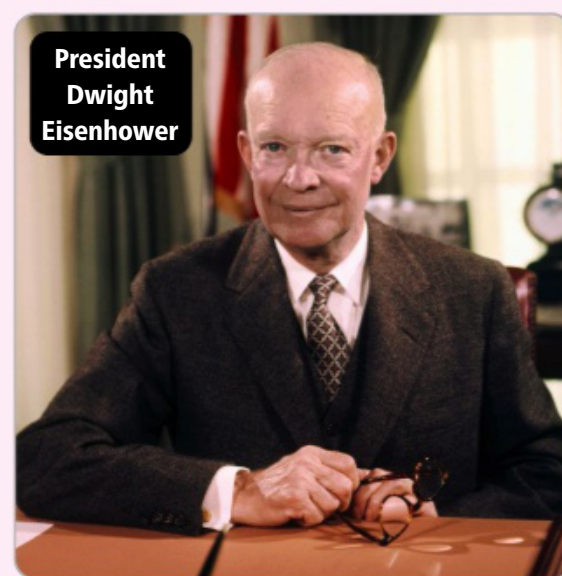


## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

### July 29, 1958

President Eisenhower establishes NASA  
On July 29, 1958, President Dwight Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA, the US space agency. The Soviet Union, which Russia was then part of, had launched the first satellite into space, and the US also wanted to compete in space exploration. About 10 years later, in 1969, NASA launched Apollo 11, a mission that put the first human on the moon.

President Dwight Eisenhower







The new vaccine

## Fourth Covid vaccine approved

The FDA, the US agency that monitors the safety of food and medicine, has approved a fourth Covid vaccine. People ages 18 and up who are not vaccinated will be eligible to receive the vaccine, made by drug company Novavax. As with other Covid vaccines, two shots of the new one are needed. The US government has purchased more than 3 million doses of the vaccine, and it is expected to be available within weeks.



## Comic book sales have soared

Sales of comic books and graphic novels increased by nearly 63% from 2020 to 2021, a new industry report revealed. Total sales were about \$2 billion, the most spent in a year on comics, graphic novels, and digital comics. Manga, a comic and graphic novel style that originated in Japan, had particularly strong demand. The jump in purchases occurred mostly at bookstores and comic stores.



Allyson Felix

## Final race for Olympic athlete

On July 15, US track and field star Allyson Felix ran her final competitive race, at the 2022 World Championships in Oregon. Prior to the race, she had announced she would retire. In her career of nearly 20 years, Felix won 11 Olympic medals, more than any other track and field athlete in world history. "She has made the sport better," fellow Olympic runner Sanya Richards-Ross said of Felix.



The ceremony to unveil the statue of Mary McLeod Bethune

## HEROES IN THE HALL

Statuary Hall was established in the US Capitol in 1864. It features up to two statues from each state.

# Historic statue installed at US Capitol

On July 13, a historic statue was installed as part of the National Statuary Hall Collection at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. The collection features statues that represent important US citizens from each of the 50 states. This is the first time a statue of a Black woman has been included.

The statue depicts Mary McLeod Bethune (1875–1955) and was a gift from the state of Florida. Bethune was born in 1875 to parents who were formerly enslaved. She became an educator and a US leader.

In 1904, Bethune founded a boarding school for Black children. Today, it is a university with more than 2,400 students. She worked to end discrimination and advocated for women and Black Americans to exercise their right to vote. Bethune later served as an adviser to five US presidents. In 1936, she became the top-ranking Black woman in government as a director at the National Youth Administration, created by President Franklin Roosevelt.

The statue was sculpted by Nilda Comas, the first Hispanic woman to contribute a piece to the hall. Carved from white marble, the statue shows Bethune in a graduation cap and gown with books, a cane given to her by Roosevelt, and a black rose, which Bethune saw as a symbol of diversity and individuality. It stands 11 feet tall and weighs 6,129 pounds.

Bethune's statue replaces one of Edmund Kirby Smith. He was a general in the Confederacy, a group of Southern states that withdrew from the union and fought to preserve slavery during the Civil War (1861–65). Florida lawmakers voted to replace Smith in 2016 and began the process of selecting someone else to represent the state. Other statues in the collection include former

Presidents and leaders in the arts, education, and sports. "We lift her up today... to help heal and unify through her example," Kathy Castor, US Representative from Florida, said of the statue.



Mary McLeod Bethune in 1943

## THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Cowboys help New Hampshire police round up escaped bull" UPI







# Around the world



**Keeping cool in London**



## **United Kingdom** **Temperature soars to record high**

During a heat wave that has swept through Europe, the UK broke its record for highest temperature ever recorded. The temperature hit 104.4 °F in London on July 19, breaking the record of 101.7 °F set in 2019. The UK is known for having mild weather, and air-conditioning is rare. Government officials declared a national emergency and urged people to avoid public transportation and to work from home.



**Some train travel will be free.**



## **Spain** **Free travel offered on trains**

Passengers in Spain will soon be able to travel on certain trains for free. The government announced that from September to the end of the year, there will be no charge for some tickets for some train lines. The aim is to encourage maximum use of public transportation and to help people deal with the sharp rise in costs for basic necessities. Other European countries, including Germany and Austria, have introduced similar plans.



**An African Union meeting**



## **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** **African Union marks milestone**

The African Union (AU), a group of 55 African countries that work together, marked its 20th anniversary on July 9. The AU, based in Addis Ababa, was founded in 2002 to encourage economic development and build cooperation between countries. It has increased African influence around the world. This year the AU held meetings with the European Union and Ukraine's president.



## **Paris, France** **Bastille Day celebrated**

On July 14, France celebrated Bastille Day, the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille prison in Paris in 1789, an uprising that signaled a turning point in the French Revolution. To mark the day, a parade was held, and the elite Air Force acrobatic flying team flew over Paris releasing smoke in the colors of the French flag (red, white, and blue).

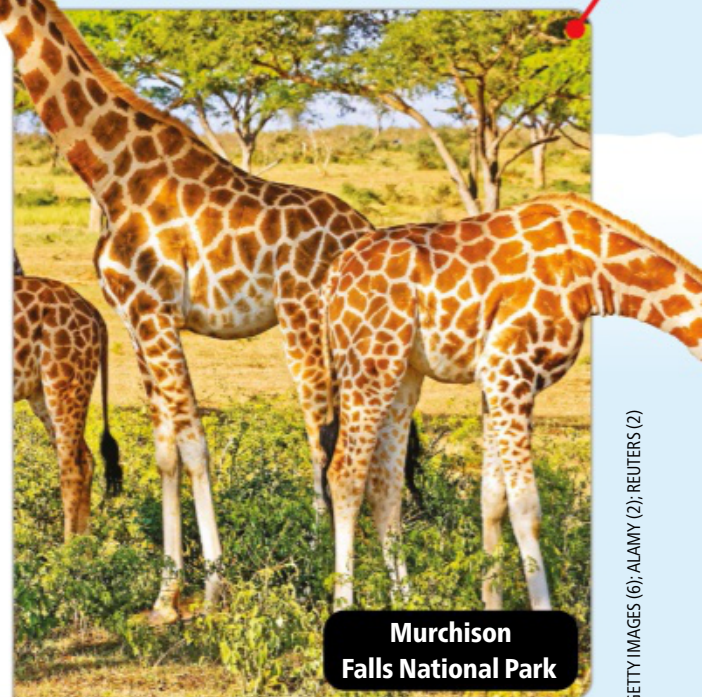


**The Air Force display**



## **Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda** **President vows to proceed with controversial oil project**

Yoweri Museveni, the president of Uganda, said he will not stop plans to build a 900-mile oil pipeline through portions of Murchison Falls National Park, a protected park. Protesters, including climate activist Vanessa Nakate, have spoken out against the project, which threatens the habitat of endangered species, including the eastern chimpanzee.



**Murchison Falls National Park**

GETTY IMAGES (6); ALAMY (2); REUTERS (2)





One of the dino sand sculptures



## Middelkerke, Belgium Sand dinosaur exhibit opens

More than 50 dinosaurs made of sand have arrived on the coast of Belgium. Artists from 30 countries carved more than 6,600 tons of sand to create the sculptures for a festival. "Dinos in the Sand" runs through September and will include tours by a paleontologist.



Park Jin (left) and Yoshimasa Hayashi

## Tokyo, Japan Leaders meet to heal relations

On July 18, foreign ministers Park Jin of South Korea and Yoshimasa Hayashi of Japan met in Tokyo to resolve a long-standing dispute. Japan occupied Korea from 1910 to 1945 and took over Korea's land, banned Korean from being spoken, and forced Korean people to work without pay. Park and Hayashi discussed payments from Japan to Koreans and improving the relationship between the two countries. Park described the trip as "very meaningful."



An electronic bracelet

## Hong Kong Covid-19 patients to be tracked

People diagnosed with Covid-19 in Hong Kong will be tagged using electronic bracelets. The bracelets must be worn by patients who are isolating after testing positive for the virus. The goal is to track people's movements to ensure that they isolate and do not leave home and risk exposing others. People who break quarantine rules can be fined \$3,200 and jailed for up to six months.



Rescuers in action

## Thailand Rescuers save elephant mother and calf

A 1-year-old elephant and its mother have been saved by staff at Khao Yai National Park, after they fell into a drain in the pouring rain. Rescuers used a crane to pull out the mother, and an excavator to clear mud for the calf to climb out. Chananya Kanchanasarak, a veterinarian, told Sky News that it was "one of the most memorable rescues" staff members have carried out.

## New Delhi, India New lion statue criticized as "ferocious"

The unveiling of a new statue on top of India's parliament (government) building has been overshadowed by criticism. The bronze sculpture, which depicts four lions, is an enlarged copy of an ancient sandstone sculpture, the Lion Capital of Ashoka, a national symbol. But some people say the new lions appear too "ferocious." A government minister insisted the statue was a "perfect replica."



The new lion statue





## The big debate

# Should kids run errands alone?

Some very young children are allowed to go out into the world on their own.

### What you need to know

- A reality TV show has sparked discussion about whether children should be allowed to run errands, like going to the store, without an adult.
- Several US states have guidelines or laws saying that children under a certain age should not be alone.
- In at least four states, it's legal for parents to let kids as young as 8 play outside or run errands on their own.
- A study of 16 other countries found that children as young as 11 are often allowed to go out on their own.



The reality show *Old Enough!*, which has been airing in Japan for 30 years, made a splash when it began streaming in the US in April. In the show, Japanese kids ages 2 to 5 run errands alone, without knowing a camera crew is following them. While the show exaggerates—most kids in Japan don't go out alone quite that young—it's true that by age 10 or 11, Japanese children are more independent than American children. The same is true in other countries, like Finland, where most 7-year-olds can walk or ride bikes on their own to nearby shops. In the US, many tweens and teens don't do this, though some say they should. What do you think? Should kids run errands alone?

### Yes—kids should be more independent

Children deserve the freedom to do tasks they're capable of accomplishing. In many countries, children go places on their own, and they do just fine. Independence teaches kids responsibility and problem-solving skills and raises self-esteem and confidence. Adults can teach them how to navigate the neighborhood, cross streets safely, and pay for things, but the best way for kids to really learn is to do it themselves. Children like to help, and running errands lets them contribute to the family while building skills they'll need as adults. Kids should have the chance to prove they can handle these responsibilities.

### No—leave this to the grown-ups

Errands are not always as simple as walking to the corner store. Sometimes they require abilities such as crossing major streets, counting money, or carrying heavy objects. And even a trip to a nearby store can be unsafe. Children going out alone could get lost or hurt and need an adult's help. A gallon of milk or a bag of flour is not worth the risk. Errands are best handled by adults, and children can learn by going along with them sometimes. Today's kids will have to do errands when they grow up, but they should get to enjoy a fun, safe, peaceful, and errand-free childhood.

### YES Three reasons why kids should run errands alone

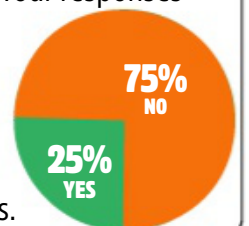
- 1 Kids can handle the freedom and responsibility of a simple errand. Plus, they learn by doing.
- 2 Children are more independent in other countries at a younger age and do just fine.
- 3 Errands boost children's confidence, teach problem-solving skills, and let kids help out in a meaningful way.

### NO Three reasons why kids should not run errands alone

- 1 Errands can be complicated, and children might not have the skills or physical abilities to do them.
- 2 Running errands alone is dangerous and risky. Kids could get lost or hurt and have no one to help them.
- 3 Kids should be allowed to be kids. Errands are for adults.

### LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if artificial grass is better than a real lawn. Your responses were pretty clear-cut: 75% of you said no, and 25% said yes.

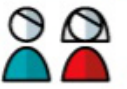


### What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, have a parent or guardian visit [theweekjunior.com/polls](https://www.theweekjunior.com/polls) with you so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think kids should run errands alone or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.





## Putting mental health first

Selena Gomez draws on her personal experience to support others.

The world came to know Selena Gomez years ago as a Disney Channel star. Since then, she's had a vast career in singing, acting, producing, and, more recently, philanthropy (working to help others) and advocacy. From launching businesses to working with government leaders, Gomez, now age 30, has become a leading voice in the effort to raise awareness for mental health.

In May, Gomez took part in the first-ever youth mental health forum, held at the White House. The event came at a time when levels of anxiety and depression are increasing among children and teens. The forum focused on turning awareness into action and invited leaders of 18 mental health nonprofits to speak.

As part of the event, Gomez sat down with President Joe Biden, First Lady Dr. Jill

Biden, and US Surgeon General (head of US public health) Vivek Murthy to discuss how the country can make resources and support more accessible. Gomez used the opportunity to stress the importance of care in schools, where young people spend significant time.

In 2020, Gomez revealed her bipolar diagnosis to the public. Bipolar disorder is a mental illness involving episodes of major depression and mania (great excitement or overactivity).

Gomez has said that once she received the diagnosis and more information, "it was less scary."

In her White House speech, Gomez shared how mental health is very personal to her. "I hope that by using my platform to share my own story and by working with incredible people...I can help others feel less alone," she said.



Selena Gomez with Dr. Jill Biden



Selena Gomez

**EARLY START**

Selena Gomez began acting at age 10 on the children's program *Barney & Friends*.

## Mayor is honored

Vitali Klitschko, mayor of Ukraine's capital of Kyiv, will receive the 2022 Arthur Ashe Courage Award from sports network ESPN. Named after tennis legend Arthur Ashe, this award recognizes people in sports who have made a global impact. Klitschko is being honored for his leadership in Ukraine's resistance to the Russian invasion. A former heavyweight boxing champion, he has been Kyiv's mayor since 2014. "This is an award for everyone who defends the independence and freedom of Ukraine," he said.



Vitali Klitschko



Kazuki Takahashi

## Farewell to an artist

Kazuki Takahashi, the Japanese manga artist behind the popular comic series *Yu-Gi-Oh!*, died on July 6 at age 60. Takahashi began his career in the 1980s. He published the first *Yu-Gi-Oh!* in 1996. The series follows Yugi, a boy who solves an ancient puzzle and is then taken over by a mysterious spirit. It inspired an anime series in the US and earned a Guinness World Records title for best-selling trading card game, with more than 25 billion cards sold. Takahashi later went on to write manga comics for Marvel, featuring Iron Man and Spider-Man.

## OVERHEARD



**"It's about everybody coming up behind me and for the people who fought to try to make it happen before me."**

Actress Ali Stroker, who uses a wheelchair, on her commitment to working only in accessible spaces







# Animals and the environment

## DID YOU KNOW?

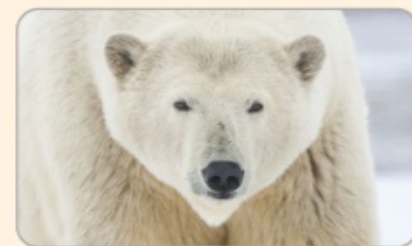
Polar bears roll around in the snow to clean their fur.



A polar bear with twin cubs

## Facts about polar bears

Polar bears are intelligent, playful animals that live for about 20 to 24 years. They weigh up to 1,200 pounds and are thought to be the longest bear species, reaching up to 10 feet in length. They have a layer of fat about 2 to 4 inches thick that helps them stay warm in freezing Arctic temperatures.



## New population of polar bears found

Researchers have identified a previously unknown population of polar bears in southeast Greenland. The area is seemingly not suitable for polar bears because it lacks sea ice, which the animals typically rely on to hunt. Scientists say the discovery of this population offers insight into how polar bears might be able to adapt as the planet warms and sea ice melts.

Most polar bears hunt by walking on floating platforms of sea ice, which is made up of frozen seawater. However, because the Earth's atmosphere is heating up, sea ice in the Arctic is melting. About one third of the Arctic's winter sea ice has disappeared in the past 20 years. Polar bears are currently considered

vulnerable to extinction (when a species no longer exists), and previous studies have warned they could disappear by 2100 if ice continues to melt.

This newly found population (totaling about 300 polar bears) was thought to be part of a larger group that lived on Greenland's east coast. However, researchers looked at data tracking the bears' movements over 36 years and found that populations in the northeast and southeast remained physically separate. They also sampled the bears' genes (short sections of DNA, a complex chemical that carries instructions for how a living thing should grow and develop) and confirmed that the two populations were different.



The bears' home

The polar bears in southeast Greenland live near glaciers, which are made up of freshwater. For most of the year, sea ice is not present where these bears live. Instead, scientists believe this population of polar bears hunts on chunks of glacial ice that break off and float into the sea. Researchers say this suggests that as sea ice disappears, other polar bears could learn to hunt using glacial ice. "As sea ice continues to decline, glacial ice may remain available for longer," Twila Moon, an author of the study that describes the new population, told *The Washington Post*.

Researchers warned, however, that most polar bears don't live in areas where glacial ice can be found. Furthermore, glaciers, including the ones in Greenland, are melting as well. Still, one researcher said the study gives hope that "polar bears might be able to hang on in an ice-free Arctic."



## PLACE OF THE WEEK

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Pacific Northwest

In the Cascades, a mountain range in western North America, the Columbia River rushes through the 80 miles of this gorge, past steep cliffs and spires and over stunning waterfalls. Sea lions live at the mouth of the Columbia River, which is home to fish like sockeye salmon, Pacific lampreys, and white sturgeons. Bobcats, deer, and black bears also live in the area, as do numerous species of lizards and salamanders. The local Discovery Center and Museum is home to seven raptors, including bald eagles, great horned owls, and a red-tailed hawk.



A pair of sea lions





A cheetah in Namibia

**BUILT FOR SPEED**  
When running, cheetahs use their tails to steer and make sharp turns.

## Cheetahs saved and returned to wild

A program in Namibia has successfully rescued and returned orphaned cheetahs to the wild, a recent study shows.

The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), an organization dedicated to saving cheetahs, took in 86 cheetahs that were orphaned due to conflicts with humans. Older cubs that had spent more time in the wild had learned survival skills from their mothers. However, cheetahs younger than six months old were grouped with older cats to learn these skills. "If you bring them in at a young age, they will bond and become like family," said CCF executive

director Laurie Marker. The cheetahs got daily exercise so they would be strong when returned to their native habitat.

Thirty-six cheetahs were eventually released back into the wild. CCF continued to monitor them with GPS tracking collars and fed the cats until they began regularly hunting on their own. Some cheetahs failed to hunt and were returned to captivity, but 27 became independent in the wild, and one female had cubs and raised them to independence. Marker said the cheetah rewilding program could be adapted for other vulnerable species, like leopards.

## Animal of the week

## Green and golden bell frog



One hundred green and golden bell frogs were born at a reptile park in Australia — good news for a once common species that has declined in recent years. The frogs will be monitored in tanks, with a goal of releasing them into the wild.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 10 to 15 years in captivity
- **HABITAT:** In or near dams, ponds, and streams
- **SIZE:** Up to about 4 inches
- **DIET:** Insects, spiders, lizards, and other frogs
- **FUN FACT:** The green and golden bell frog turns mostly brown when it is cold or inactive.



## Good week / Bad week



### Mustangs

Three mustangs in Maine are being sent to a sanctuary for wild horses in Oregon. They had been part of a group of neglected horses that were rescued by wildlife officials. These three mustangs were best suited to life in the wild.



### Canada geese

The government of Foster City in California is considering culling (killing) some of the Canada geese that live in the area. The birds' population has swelled, and they produce large amounts of poop, which may pose a public health risk.



## "What is a common ancestor of jellyfish?" Ellie, 14, New York

### Alyssa Lind

Marine science interpreter,  
Seattle Aquarium

Jellyfish are one of the oldest species on Earth. They are related to corals and sea anemones. Their ancestors were polyps, which resemble small sea anemones. They gained the ability to swim more than 500 million years ago. That makes jellyfish at least twice as old as the dinosaurs!



A jellyfish

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Find out more about the Seattle Aquarium at [seattleaquarium.org](http://seattleaquarium.org).





# The tasty history of

**Savory or sweet, meat or meatless, smoked food is a culinary classic.**

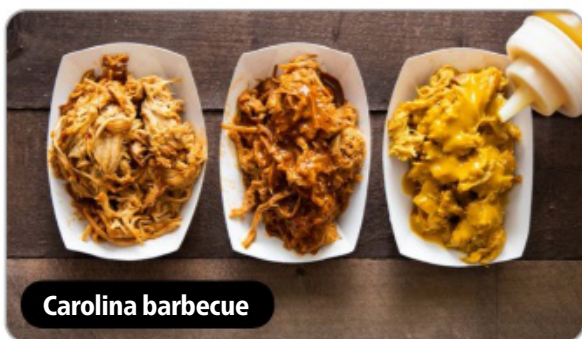
Every summer, people fire up the grill to enjoy barbecue, one of the oldest cuisines in the US. Different parts of the country are known for their regional flavors and cooking methods. Grab a napkin and take a bite of food history.



Fish is cooked on a *barbacoa*.

### What is barbecue?

Barbecue is food cooked slowly on a grill or over a fire pit. The word "barbecue" comes from the Taíno, Indigenous people who inhabited the Caribbean from 1200–1500 AD. *Barbacoa* was their word for grilling on a high wood grate. In the 1500s, European explorers learned the method and brought it to what is now the southeastern US.



Carolina barbecue

### The origin of regional specialties

As people moved west across America, they took barbecue with them and experimented with meats, sauces, and rubs (spice mixtures). Four main regional types of barbecue developed over centuries. Carolina style is focused on pork and sauces with a vinegar base and condiments like ketchup or mustard. Texas is known for its brisket (a cut of beef). Kansas City features burnt brisket ends and a sweet, thick tomato sauce. Memphis style is pork ribs served "wet" with sauce or "dry" with a rub. Wood is the traditional fuel that gives barbecue its smoky flavor, but charcoal, gas, and electricity are also used.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

America's "Barbecue Belt" stretches through seven states: Alabama, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

**FRIENDLY RIVALRY**

Kansas City (in Missouri) and Memphis (in Tennessee) are two of several US cities that claim to be "the barbecue capital of the world."

Memphis ribs are served dry or with sauce.

### Barbecue styles around the world

Cooking food slowly over a fire is one of the oldest ways of cooking, and many cultures across the globe have their own take. Here is a look at three of those culinary customs.



#### Brazil

Called *churrasco* (a Portuguese or Spanish word for grilled meat), Brazilian barbecue started with cowboys who cooked hunks of steak on skewers and cut them off at the table. A Brazilian barbecue steakhouse is known as a *churrascaria*.







# an American favorite



**BRING YOUR APPETITE**  
Texas has the biggest barbecue pit in the world. It is 76 feet long and can cook up to four tons of meat.



Grilling for a crowd

## The rise of barbecue culture

Barbecue has become so popular that it has inspired national competitions. The American Royal World Series of Barbecue, held in Kansas City, Missouri, is the largest barbecue competition worldwide. The Memphis in May World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest, which lasts four days, is considered one of the most prestigious events. Popular TV shows, including *Fire Masters* and *BBQ Brawl*, set pitmasters against one another to compete for money and prizes. The Barbecue Hall of Fame in Kansas City honors barbecue's heritage and inducts new members every year.



A vegan pulled jackfruit sandwich

## What's next for barbecue

Although barbecue is rooted in tradition, the cuisine continues to change and evolve. More people across the US are discovering flavoring meat with Asian and Middle Eastern spices. One example is za'atar, a tangy, dry Middle Eastern blend of herbs. Another growing trend is meatless barbecue, ranging from plant-based ribs to cauliflower steaks to shredded jackfruit (a tropical tree fruit) that resembles pulled pork. Meanwhile, interest in American barbecue has spread. In recent years, US-style barbecue restaurants have opened in Asia, Europe, and South America.



## Korea

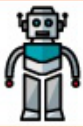
Instead of grilling outside, Korean barbecue is cooked indoors in a restaurant, on a grill at the center of the table. Each guest gets their own meat to cook as well as sauces and *banchan* (side dishes of pickled vegetables). Typical meats include thinly sliced beef, chicken, and pork ribs.



## South Africa

South African barbecue is known as *braai*. Lamb, beef, and pork are cooked over a grill called a *braaistand*. Wood fuels the fire, and everyone invited contributes cuts of meat. Braai Day in South Africa is September 24, although people enjoy braais year-round.





**FUN FACT**  
Ichthyosaurs had skinny, pointed snouts and looked and behaved like modern porpoises or sharks.

An artist's rendering of ichthyosaurs and other sea animals

## Prehistoric sea creature had big bite

Scientists have discovered a massive tooth from an enormous fish-like animal that lived about 205 million years ago. The creature—a marine reptile called an ichthyosaur—may have been one of the largest of its kind.

Ichthyosaurs were aquatic (water-dwelling) reptiles that lived between 251 million and 65.5 million years ago. They belonged to the same large animal group that includes today's crocodiles, lizards, and turtles. About 250 million years ago, in a prehistoric period called the Triassic, reptiles began to split into animals with different lifestyles, giving rise to plant-eating and meat-eating dinosaurs on land and flying hunters called pterosaurs in the air.

Others took to the seas, evolving and adapting over millions of years into many forms. Ichthyosaurs, whose name means "fish lizard" in ancient Greek, were the earliest of these. They had a streamlined (shaped to move smoothly through water or air) form similar to a fish. Smaller types survived until about 90 million years ago.

The rare tooth was among remains from three ichthyosaurs found in Switzerland between 1976 and 1990. The finds

had been ignored in favor of better-quality discoveries from Canada. Recently, however, scientists Martin Sander and Heinz Furrer studied them and realized they came from creatures that could have been up to 65 feet long.

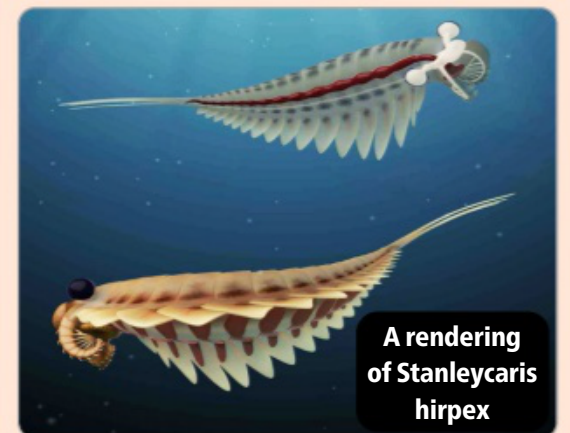
Although many teeth from smaller ichthyosaurs have been found, this is only the second, and by far the largest, to come from a giant species. Until now, this lack of large teeth had led some scientists to wonder if the giants were suction feeders, pulling in small prey in the powerful currents of water created as they opened their mouths (like some whales today). However, Sander said the teeth would have allowed them to hunt bigger prey, including giant squid.

Experts aren't sure why these giants were in this area. The rocks where the remains were found once lay at the bottom of a shallow sea, not the sort of deep ocean where such big animals would typically live. The researchers think it's possible that the giant creatures used the shallower waters as nurseries, where they could give birth to their young in safety.



The fossilized tooth

### Three-eyed predator found



A rendering of Stanleycaris hirpex

Researchers working in Canada recently found fossils of a prehistoric ocean predator that were so well preserved that its brain and nervous system could be seen. "It's as if we were looking at an animal that died yesterday," said lead researcher Joseph Mysiuk. The creature, Stanleycaris hirpex, had spiny claws and three eyes.

S. hirpex lived about 500 million years ago and was less than 8 inches long. It was an arthropod, which is distantly related to today's spiders and insects. Seeing S. hirpex in such detail will help researchers understand how arthropods evolved (changed slowly over time).





## Racing against time to study a shipwreck

French scientists are rushing to study and preserve an ancient boat before it crumbles. If they work quickly and carefully, the shipwreck could reveal secrets from about 1,300 years ago.

The boat was made between the years 680 and 720, during a period known as the Middle Ages. At the time, a tribal people called the Franks ruled many areas of western Europe, including much of what is now France. Only a few boats from the period have ever been found in Europe.

The ship was first found in 2013, buried in silt (sand, soil, or mud in water) in the bed of a stream near the Garonne River in southwestern France. Scientists have started digging it out and taking it apart to study its design and contents.

The 40-foot-long boat has been buried away from light and oxygen for so long that exposing it now could cause its beams to splinter. To prevent this, the team is “watering” the wreck every 30 minutes, said project leader Laurent Grimbert. As the ship is taken apart, every piece is recorded and photos are taken.

“Each piece of wood that is dismantled teaches us more about the shipbuilding techniques of the early Middle Ages,” Grimbert said.

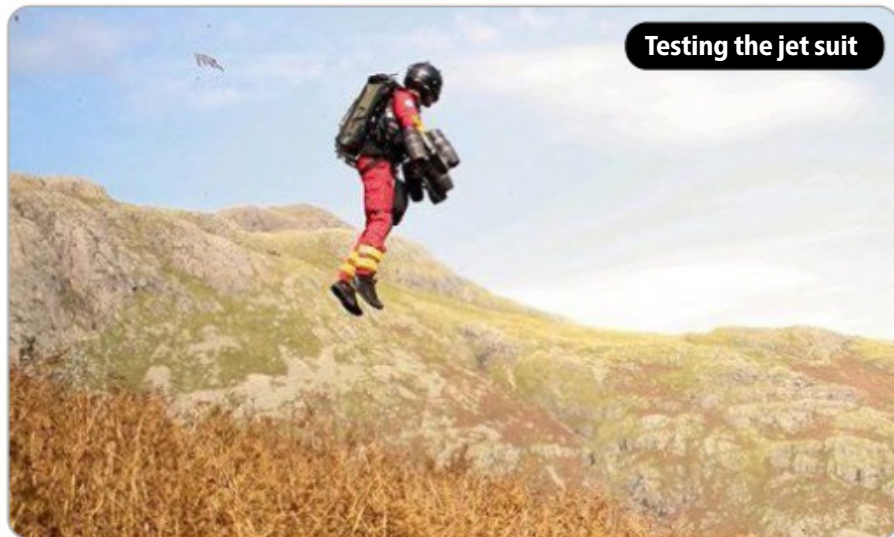
The team has found pieces of leather and ceramic, ropes, and a fragment of a wooden spoon inside. Once they are done, they will either rebury the ship or preserve it with a protective substance called resin. A 3D model will be made so the ship can be studied in the future.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In a very wet environment, wood can be protected from fungi and bacteria for thousands of years.



The boat is made from oak, pine, and chestnut wood.



Testing the jet suit

## Jet suit rescues could save lives

Medical crews in England are testing a jet suit to help reach injured explorers in remote areas. The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) serves the Lake District, a hilly region that draws about 15 million visitors a year.

GNAAS paramedics currently travel on foot over rugged terrain or in helicopters, which require a place to land. The jet suit would let them deliver medical care more quickly. It has five mini-engines—two in each

hand unit and one in a backpack. Paramedics would fly low to the ground and carry medical supplies in pouches attached to their legs.

In one test, the suit reached a hillside location in 90 seconds. A paramedic on foot would have had a difficult 25-minute climb to the same spot. “In many cases, this would ease the patient’s suffering,” said Andy Mawson, director of operations for the GNAAS. “In some cases, it would save their lives.”



## A light that makes drinking water



The light

A light fixture that turns seawater into clean drinking water could help residents of Mejillones, Chile. Clean water is expensive in the seaside town.

The light works by separating salt from seawater, which is pumped into it through a small tube. As the

seawater trickles through pipes in the lamp, the process of evaporation separates the salt and leaves behind drinking water. The lamp can produce about 1.7 cups of water a day. It can be powered by a solar panel or a special battery that runs on leftover salt.





# Sports

## DID YOU KNOW?

Team USA won the most medals at the first World Games in 1981.

## The medal design



The medals for the 2022 World Games were designed by a Birmingham artist. They feature the Sloss Furnace, a national landmark in Birmingham; the city's famous statue of the Roman god Vulcan, a mascot of the Games; and symbols representing various sports.

Breakdancing medalists, from left: Americans Jeffrey Louis and Victor Bernudez Montalvo, and Shigeyuki Nakari of Japan



# Big wins for Team USA at World Games

The 2022 World Games in Birmingham, Alabama, came to an end on July 17 after 10 days of competition. The Games are an Olympic-style event that brought together about 3,375 top athletes from more than 100 countries. They featured 34 sports, most of which aren't part of Olympic competition.

Italy earned the most medals with 49, Germany won 47, and Ukraine took home 45. Team USA collected 44 medals, including 16 golds, the second most of any country.

Members of Team USA had several big wins during the Games' final weekend. On July 17, Aaron Ortiz won a gold in men's muaythai (a martial art and combat sport), while Charley

Maner won a gold on the women's side. In gymnastics that day, Kaden Brown won in men's tumbling. Unlike floor routines at the Olympics, tumblers like Brown perform a quick series of eight skills, such as flips and twists, on a long, straight tumbling track.



American softball players

The day before, Team USA's mixed ultimate disc team beat Australia, 13–11, in the gold medal game. Another team gold came from women's softball on July 13, when the top-seeded (ranked) Americans beat second-seeded Japan, 3–2. It was a rematch of last year's Olympic gold medal game, which Japan won.

Team USA was undefeated in men's inline hockey and took the gold in a 2–1 win over the Czech

Republic on July 12. In flag football, the US men won gold and the women won silver.

There were four gold medalists in waterskiing and wakeboarding: Adam Pickos in the men's trick competition, Nate Smith in men's slalom, Regina Jaquess in women's slalom, and Lauren Morgan in the women's jump event. Individual gold medalists in other sports were bowler Shannon O'Keefe; Brian Wang and Mia Tian, who each competed in wushu (a martial art); and Emma Hunt, the champion in speed sport climbing.

Team USA won three breakdancing medals. In the B-Boys (men's) event, Victor Bernudez Montalvo won gold, and Jeffrey Louis, known as Jeffro, took silver. For the B-Girls (women), Sunny Choi won silver. Breakdancing will make its Olympic debut at the Paris Games in 2024.

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

### TRACK AND FIELD

At the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon, on July 17, Chase Ealey became the first American woman to win a gold medal in shot put. That same day, three American men swept the podium in the 100-meter final. Fred Kerley came in first with a time of 9.86 seconds. He is now known as the fastest man in the world. Marvin Bracy won silver, and Trayvon Bromell took bronze.



Chase Ealey

### GOLF

Australian Cameron Smith won the British Open, one of golf's four major tournaments. It was his first major victory. His final score of 20 under par is one of golf's best scores in a major.

### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

On July 18, Juan Soto of the Washington Nationals won the Home Run Derby, an event leading up to the All-Star Game. At 23, he is the second youngest winner ever. He beat Julio Rodríguez of the Seattle Mariners, 19–18, in the final.





## FUN FACT

US soccer star Alex Morgan is the author of a book series for kids called *The Kicks*.



The US Women's National Team

## US women take soccer championship

On July 18, the US Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT) defeated Canada, 1–0, in the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Women's Championship at Estadio BBVA in Guadalupe, Mexico. With the win, the US earned a spot at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

This was the first time the teams had met since the semifinals of the Tokyo Olympics last year. Canada won, 1–0, on a late penalty kick and went on to become the Olympic champions.

Going into the CONCACAF final, the USWNT was ranked number one in the world and Canada was sixth. After 45 seconds of play in the first half, American forward Mallory Pugh forced Canadian goalkeeper Kailen Sheridan to make her first save. Throughout the match, both teams created

scoring chances, but strong defenses made it tough for the offenses to break through.

With less than 15 minutes left and the score at 0–0, American midfielder Rose Lavelle was fouled inside the penalty box. That set up a penalty kick, which was taken by forward Alex Morgan. She calmly struck the ball into the bottom right corner and gave the US a lead they would not give up. Sheridan and US goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher each made five saves over the course of the match.

Afterward, Morgan was named the best player of the tournament and awarded the Golden Ball. The US is now 60–1–1 in World Cup and Olympic Qualifying matches. Earlier CONCACAF victories over Haiti and Jamaica helped them clinch a spot in the 2023 World Cup, where they will look to defend their 2019 title.



## COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **David Pierce**

Team: **Red Sox 1A—West Springfield Little League**

**"Coach David is a really awesome coach. He cheers us all on and supports us. He is really kind, always helps, and teaches our team how to keep trying and never give up. Even when I think I can't do something or am frustrated, he always tells me I can do it. He believes in all of us on the team. I think he knows more about baseball than anyone. He is my favorite coach."** Miles, 8, Virginia



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



## Jenn Medjid

AGE: 22 SPORT: LACROSSE  
TEAM: BOSTON COLLEGE

**Early love** I first picked up a lacrosse stick in second grade. The sport is very big where I am from in New York. I loved the competitiveness and how the game allows everyone to be creative and play with different styles.

**Major moment** My biggest accomplishment is winning the National Championship in 2021. It was a dream come true! I have one more year in college, so my next goal is to win another one.

**Role model** After watching Kayla Treanor play for Syracuse University, I wanted to be just like her. I was lucky enough to be coached by her in college. She pushed us every day to be the best we could be.

**Hitting the field** My team and I practice six days a week. We do all sorts of drills. I mainly focus on dodging and shooting, plus drills that help my teammates and I work together on the field.

**Fueling up** I love chicken parm with pasta before a big game or practice.

**Chilling out** One important thing I do to take care of myself mentally is take time away from lacrosse and be with friends and family. Lacrosse is so fun, but it takes a lot of hard work and long hours.

**Staying positive** I think the best way to handle a loss is to surround yourself with your teammates and use the loss or poor performance as a chance to see where you can grow and learn.

**Her advice** Never give up on your dreams. At times it may seem hard or even impossible, but with hard work and perseverance you will be able to accomplish anything.







# Arts and entertainment



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
There are about 2 million people in the US living with limb loss.

Logan Marmino in *Best Foot Forward*

## An author's life on screen

The new comedy series *Best Foot Forward* is based on the real-life childhood of a boy with one leg.

A new comedy series about a boy in middle school is now streaming on Apple TV+. *Best Foot Forward* is based on the best-selling memoir (book about a personal experience) *Just Don't Fall* by Josh Sundquist. He is a comedian, motivational speaker, and paralympic athlete. When he was 9 years old, he was diagnosed with cancer and had one leg amputated.

The show's main character is a 12-year-old named Josh Dubin who has a prosthetic (fake)



Josh Sundquist

leg. After years of being homeschooled, Josh convinces his parents to let him attend public school. He isn't insecure about his limb difference, but he also doesn't want it to be what defines him when he meets new people. "He wants to make people see him for *him*," Sundquist told *The Week Junior*.

Josh is played by Logan Marmino, age 12, who has a prosthetic leg. Casting an actor with a limb difference was very important to Sundquist. He thinks it's "uncool" that disabled characters are regularly played

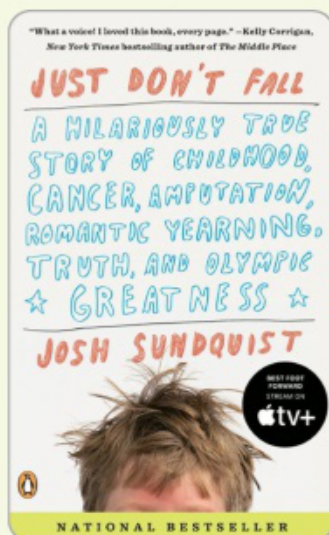
by able-bodied actors because it is not authentic and it takes away job opportunities. He made sure the show was inclusive and representative off-camera, too. Members of the writing team and the crew also have disabilities.

Sundquist is excited about the series because he never saw anyone like himself on screen while growing up. He said one of his goals is to "normalize different types of bodies." He believes that seeing a different type of person on screen can have a major impact on audiences. "I think they will react differently the next time they interact with someone like me in real life," he said.

### 3 facts about the author

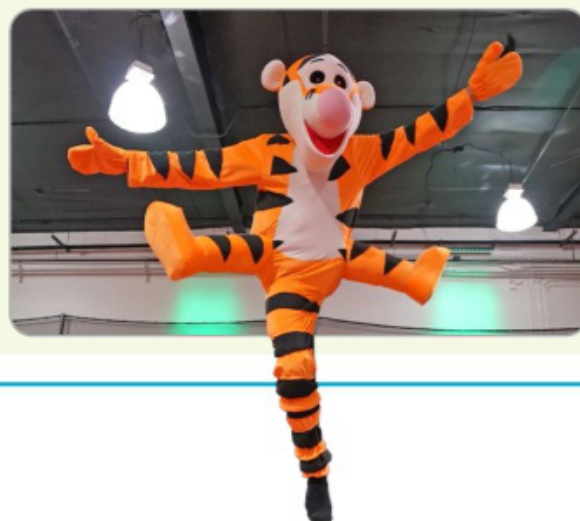
#### Storyteller

At age 6, Josh Sundquist wrote a newspaper by hand and tapped out short stories on a typewriter. He has published two memoirs, a young adult novel, and a new book about celebrity.



#### Costume creator

He is known for coming up with creative Halloween costumes that make use of his single leg. Some of them have included a partially eaten gingerbread man, a football goal post, and a jumping Tigger from *Winnie the Pooh*.



#### Athlete

At age 16, Sundquist took up ski racing and eventually made the US Paralympic Ski Team. In 2006, he competed at the Paralympics in Torino, Italy. He has been a member of the US Amputee Soccer Team since 2014.





**ANCIENT HISTORY**  
The martial art of kung fu can be traced back more than 2,000 years.



**Kung Fu Panda: The Dragon Knight**

## Star returns to *Kung Fu Panda*

It's been six years since hilarious actor Jack Black voiced the lovable warrior panda Po in the *Kung Fu Panda* animated franchise. Now he is back as the character in *Kung Fu Panda: The Dragon Knight*, a new series streaming on Netflix.

Audiences first met Po in 2008. He is a large, clumsy panda in ancient China who proved himself to be a kung fu master. Executive producer Peter Hastings told *The Week Junior* that Po is a fan favorite because he is "a lovable loser who can kick butt. He's able to be an underdog and a hero."

In *Kung Fu Panda: The Dragon Knight*, Po is a Dragon Master. But after he accidentally allows two weasels to steal a powerful glove,

his prestigious title is revoked. An English knight named Wandering Blade (voiced by singer Rita Ora) joins him on a quest to stop the evil weasels and regain his title. The adventure is a chance for Po "to rediscover himself," Hastings said.

Executive producer Shaunt Nigoghossian told *The Week Junior* the new show is different from the two previous *Kung Fu Panda* series. He said it was made more like a movie, with a deeper story and better animation. However, it still contains the comedy and action that fans expect, if not more. "Po is Jack Black," Hastings said. "He's everything that's fun, crazy, playful, and emotional about Po. It lifts the whole show up."



## MY FAVORITE BOOKS

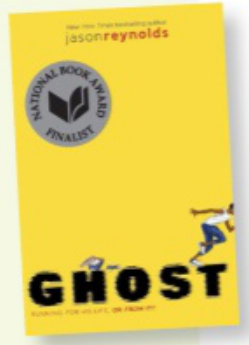
Sheinelle Jones, 3rd Hour of *Today* co-host, shares her thoughts about the magic of books and the titles her children are enjoying most.



**Sheinelle Jones**

There's no question, when you can find a book that a child loves, it can engage them in a magical way. I think it can ultimately encourage them to read independently when they're older.

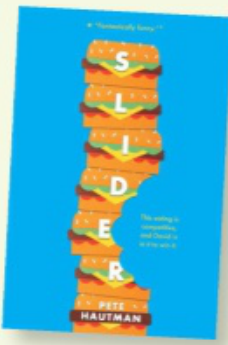
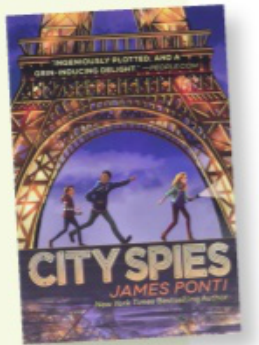
The books my oldest child, age 12, would recommend to other kids are *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds and *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. *Ghost* is the first book



in a series, and it's about a boy called Ghost who wants to be the fastest sprinter on his middle school track team. *Wonder* is about a boy who was born with a severe facial difference and wants to be treated like an

ordinary kid at school.

My twins are age 9, and they told me their favorite books are *City Spies* by James Ponti and *Slider* by Pete Hautman. "I like *City Spies* because it's a mystery and it's interesting. It's fun to figure out



answers while I read," my son said. My daughter said she liked *Slider* because it's funny. She told me, "The main character spends too much money on his mom's credit card and enrolls in a food-eating competition to earn money to pay the money back to her."

For more book ideas, get our list of 50 books at [theweekjunior.com/summerofreading](http://theweekjunior.com/summerofreading).



## MOVIE NIGHT

For our Summer of Reading program, we're selecting a film based on popular books.



### Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) (Paramount+)

PG

The 13 best-selling books in the *A Series of Unfortunate Events* series by Lemony Snicket (the pen name for Daniel Handler) chronicle the lives of Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire. This grim but funny film is an adaptation of the first three stories. It begins when the children lose their parents in a mysterious fire that also burns down their home. Now orphans, they are sent to live with a distant relative, Count Olaf. He puts them to work with unpleasant chores as he schemes to steal the fortune they inherited from their parents. The children expose his intentions and are placed with new guardians, but Olaf still wants their money and plots to get them back. Can the kids escape his evil grasp?



COURTESY OF NETFLIX; GETTY IMAGES; PARAMOUNT PICTURES; BOOKS: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; ON LEFT PAGE: COURTESY OF APPLE TV; GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF JOSH SUNDQUIST (3)





## On screen

**DID YOU KNOW?**

In 1963, a French cat named Félicette was a passenger on a rocket that flew about 100 miles above Earth, then returned safely.



Stray

# Think and act just like a cat

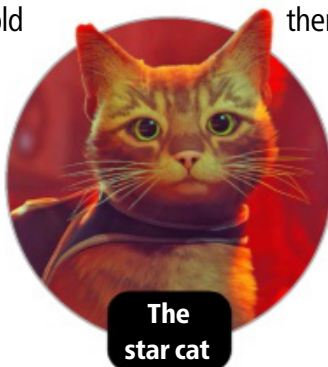
**S**tray is a new puzzle platform adventure game set in a cyberpunk world. Cyberpunk is a science fiction genre that has run-down cities filled with technology. The game is now available for PlayStation systems and PC.

In Stray, gamers play as a cat that has been separated from its family. It has ended up in a mysterious city full of robot people that have old computer monitors for heads. Luckily, the cat is clever, has great reflexes, and knows how to get out of a tough situation.

To make it through the game, players need to think and act like a cat. Much of the exploring and puzzle solving requires pushing and pulling things with the cat's claws and using its small size to find hidden secrets. There are 25 trophies in the game, and successfully completing tasks will unlock them.

A drone named B-12 ends up assisting the cat on its journey. It can speak to the robots and helps the cat find new paths to follow. One thing the cat must avoid are rat-like monsters called Zurks that attack in big swarms. The cat can wriggle away or escape on bucket zip lines, but if the Zurks do catch it, there's no reason to worry. In keeping with the myth that cats have nine lives, this one respawns immediately.

The cat in Stray looks and acts very much like a real cat. The game's creators are cat lovers, and they studied their own cats for inspiration. They even devoted a button to meowing. If you want to engage in classic cat behavior, you can have the cat make a mess out of the robot people's stuff or interrupt them playing a game. Even while lost in the city, there's time for fun.



The star cat



### PODCAST OF THE WEEK

#### CLASSICAL SPROUTS

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ClassicalSprouts](https://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ClassicalSprouts)

Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan is behind this new series that takes a fun look at classical music. Episodes cover topics such as ancient instruments, the Broadway musical *West Side Story*, and seven brothers and sisters who play all types of songs using the violin, cello, and piano.



### APP OF THE WEEK



#### CROSSY ROAD

Apple App Store, Google Play, Amazon

The goal of this retro-style game is to collect characters and help them cross rivers, freeways, railroads, and more. The tricky part is dodging vehicles and getting around obstacles. There are more than 150 characters, such as a T-rex, a speedy sloth, and a hopping robot.



### VIDEO OF THE WEEK

#### ANIMAL PLANTS

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Plants](https://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Plants)

This TED-Ed video focuses on an extraordinary sea creature named *Elysia chlorotica*. It is a type of green slug that looks like a leaf. One of its amazing features is that it can go for a year without eating while it is living like a plant. This video explains how and why.







## BOOK OF THE WEEK

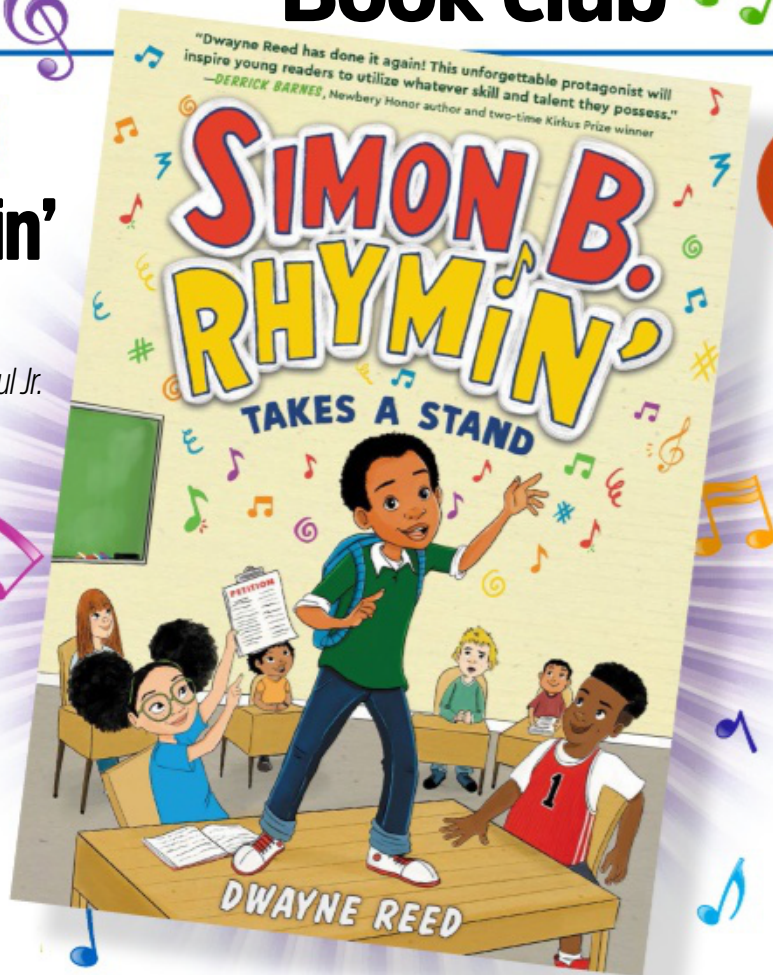
### Simon B. Rhymín' Takes a Stand

By Dwayne Reed, illustrated by Robert Paul Jr.

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

It's hotter than usual for October in Chicago, and the air-conditioning isn't working at Simon's school. Everyone is complaining except Simon's best friend, Maria. She's focused on the first debate club meeting that's coming up. But her spirits are crushed when she learns that the school doesn't have the money or the space for the team to compete this year. The school canceled the

Art Club, Theater Club, and Karate Club too. Simon, Maria, and their friends want to fight to keep their favorite activities. With encouragement from their families, they come up with the idea to start a petition (a formal request to change or do something). Simon even makes a catchy rap about their petition and they get signatures from community members. The school board hears about the petition. Will it be enough to bring back the much-loved clubs? The story, which takes place within a time span of two weeks, may inspire you to stand up for your beliefs. It's fun to read Simon's raps about the petition and other topics out loud. The second in a series, the book contains illustrations of 11-year-old Simon and his friends. Ages 8–12



## STORY STARTER

If you're interested in writing a story but aren't sure where to begin, use this inspiration from Dwayne Reed. He has written the first sentence of a story below. Now write what comes next. It can be anything! Sometimes it's easier to be creative when you have a jumping-off point. Have fun!

**"What I really wanted them to know about me was...."**

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## Ask the Author: Dwayne Reed



We spoke to Dwayne Reed, who wrote this issue's Book of the Week. He is one of *The Week Junior's* Summer of Reading Author Ambassadors. Besides writing books, he has taught fourth grade in Chicago.

### Were you on the debate team at school?

I wanted to be, but I was afraid to speak up in front of people.

### What do you wish you could tell your younger self?

Be you, do you to the 10th degree. So often we're afraid to tell the truth about ourselves out of fear of what people might say or if they might treat us differently. It's your right to tell people who you really are.

### When did you start rapping?

In fifth grade, when I was Simon's age, I made a rap out of my notes for a vocabulary test. It worked—I got 100!

### Do you play an instrument?

Piano and guitar, both by ear.

### How can kids make a difference in their community?

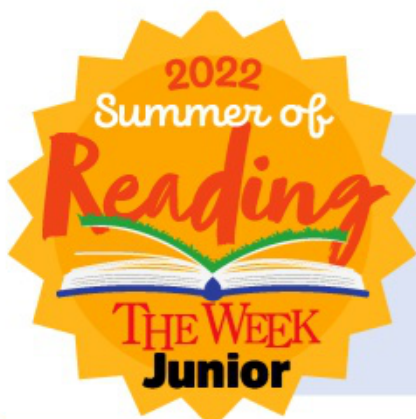
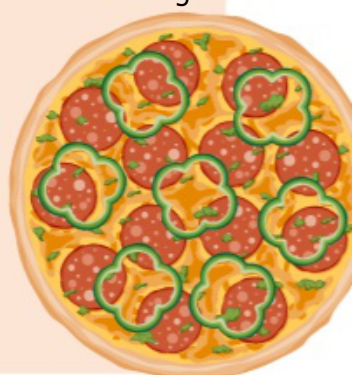
Work on a small change, and keep at it. Any small change is big. Big change only comes after a lot of small changes.

### What was your favorite book growing up?

*The Adventures of Mary-Kate and Ashley* mysteries. I'd tell the librarian I was borrowing them for my sister, but I'd gobble them up!

### How do you like to order your pizza?

Thin crust, Chicago-style with pepperoni or sausage and green peppers.



Our list of 50 Books Kids Love Most and details about entering our Summer of Reading sweepstakes can be found at [theweekjunior.com/summerofreading](https://theweekjunior.com/summerofreading). Happy reading!



# HOST A FAMILY GAME NIGHT!

Inspired by **Totally Random Kids**, this game is a fun way to test your knowledge of totally random facts. To start, check out the totally random questions and game instructions on page 31 of this issue. Then visit [theweekjunior.com/totallyrandom](http://theweekjunior.com/totallyrandom) for a chance to win the **Totally Random Kids** book series!

That's SO random!



# TOTAL RANDOM

# THE GAME

NOW  
YOU KNOW!

FINISH

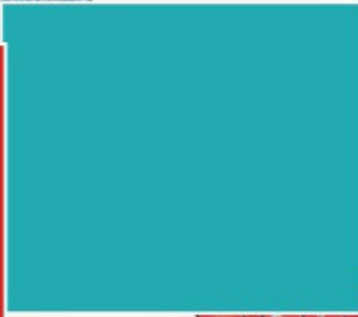
Told you I  
could do it!

START



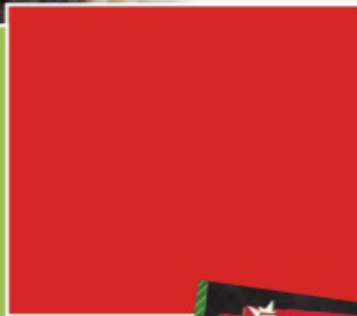


ADVERTISEMENT



**TOTALLY  
RANDOM  
KIDS**

**THE  
ME!**



NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. Void where prohibited. Open to legal residents of US and DC who are 18 years old or older. Begins 07/22/22 at 12:01am ET and ends on 08/26/22 at 11:59pm ET. Prizes/Odds: There are three (3) Prizes. ARV per Prize \$75 USD. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Subject to Official Rules located at [theweekjunior.com/terms](http://theweekjunior.com/terms). Administrator: The Week Junior, part of Future US LLC with offices at 1100 13th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005.

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# How to...



## POPULAR PASTIME

Nearly 50 million people in the US said they go camping at least once a year.



# Go camping outdoors

**Pitch a tent and spend some time in nature this summer.**

People enjoy camping for many different reasons. Spending time outdoors, including overnight, helps you appreciate all the sights and sounds of nature. It's a fun way to catch up with family and friends. It's also an affordable option for taking a vacation. If you and your family want to try camping, here are some suggestions for getting started.

### Locate a campsite

If you've never camped before, you could start off by camping in your backyard or a nearby area. You'll get the experience of sleeping outdoors in a tent under the stars, but it won't require as much time or gear. Many county and state parks allow people to camp overnight on their grounds. Contact the park office to find out. If you'd like to venture farther from home, websites such as [reserveamerica.com](https://www.reserveamerica.com), [koa.com](https://www.koa.com), and [campjellystone.com](https://www.campjellystone.com) offer many options.

### Get the gear you need

The most important gear you'll need is a tent. You could purchase one from an outdoor store, but you could also borrow one. Practice setting up your tent at home so it's easy to do on your trip. You'll also need a sleeping bag and pillow, a flashlight, food, and cooking gear. Pack clothing for warm days and cool nights, a rain jacket, and sturdy shoes. Don't forget a first aid kit, too.

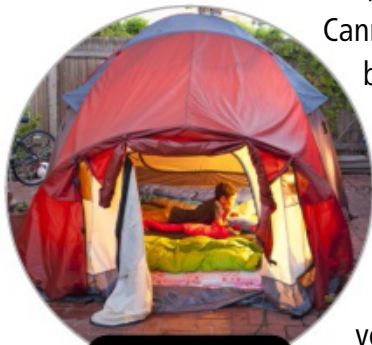
### Plan your food

Making a meal plan ahead of time can help you make sure you pack everything you need. Aim for simple meals that don't require a lot of ingredients. For example, an adult could use a camping stove to cook scrambled eggs for breakfast. You could pack peanut butter, jelly, and bread to make sandwiches for lunch. For dinner, you could grill hot dogs over a campfire.

Canned or premade side dishes, such as baked beans or a pasta salad, can round out meals. Put marshmallows, graham crackers, and chocolate bars on your grocery list so you can make s'mores over a campfire for dessert. Pack your food in coolers, and follow all rules at your campsite for storing food. These rules are meant to keep animals from entering your area. Some sites have special food lockers for storing food.

### Have the best time

Once you're at your campsite and have everything set up, it's time to have fun. Many campsites and parks have hiking trails you can follow and lakes and streams you can swim in. After a day of exploring, gather around a campfire for classic camping activities, like telling ghost stories and singing favorite songs. Also, bring items such as books and a sketchpad so you can enjoy time on your own as well.



Backyard camping is fun.

## 4 delicious twists on tasty s'mores

On a camping trip or anytime, try one of these variations on the classic outdoor treat.

### Switch chocolates

Trade the traditional chocolate bar for another type of candy, like a chocolate peanut butter cup or a crispy rice chocolate bar. A variety pack of mini chocolate bars could also work well.



### Wrap up a banana

With an adult's help, use a knife to make a slit down the front of a banana peel. Stuff the banana with mini chocolate chips, mini

marshmallows, and crushed nuts. Wrap the banana with foil, then roast over a campfire for 15 minutes.

### Get dipping

With help from an adult, melt 1 bag of chocolate chips with 1 tablespoon of butter in a skillet. Add a bag of marshmallows to the melted chocolate, then cover and cook for 7 minutes. Transfer mixture to a bowl. Use graham crackers to dip.



### Make bars

With an adult's help, melt 1 bag of chocolate chips with 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil. Remove from heat and add 2 cups of mini marshmallows and 2 cups of Golden Grahams cereal. Combine and press into a square baking pan. Let set. Slice and enjoy.

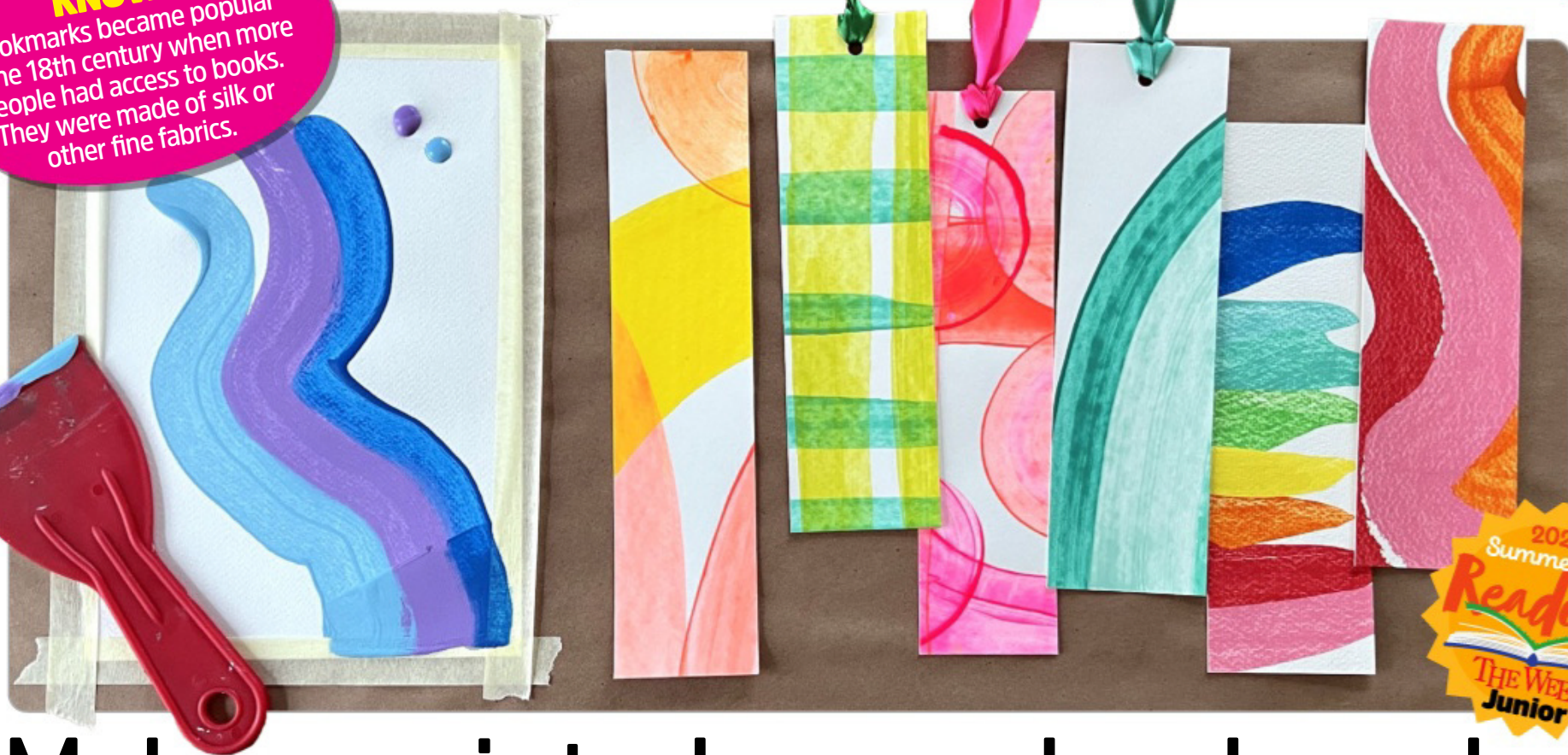






### DID YOU KNOW?

Bookmarks became popular in the 18th century when more people had access to books. They were made of silk or other fine fabrics.



# Make a painted paper bookmark

## What you need

- Kraft paper or newspaper
- Heavy paper, like cardstock or watercolor paper
- Masking tape
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paint scraper, a putty knife, or an old credit card
- Scissors
- Hole punch and ribbon (optional)

## Instructions

1. Cover a table with kraft paper, newspaper, or other materials to keep it from getting messy. Tape cardstock or watercolor paper to the kraft paper or newspaper to keep the paper steady while you paint on it.
2. Squeeze some small blobs or droplets of paint onto the cardstock or watercolor paper. You can use a few colors, if you wish, and squeeze the blobs in a few areas of the paper.
3. Hold the paint scraper at the top of the paper, with the edge of it resting on the paper. Push the scraper over
4. After your first design dries, you can add more blobs of paint to the design. Continue scraping the paint around to layer the paint stripes and

the blobs of paint to move the paint around on the paper. You can try pulling the scraper in straight or curvy lines, squiggles, circles, or an arc, like a rainbow. Experiment with how hard you press the scraper down when you pull. This will change how thick or thin the paint appears. For more or less blending of the colors, experiment with the spacing of the paint blobs.

shapes. For instance, you could make a plaid design by crisscrossing stripes over each other.

5. After your artwork is complete and dry, cut it into strips to make bookmarks for yourself as well as your friends and family.
6. If you'd like, you can punch a hole at the center top of each bookmark and add a ribbon. Cut a 9-inch piece of ribbon and fold it in half. Push the folded end through the hole. Feed the two cut ends through the resulting loop and pull them to tighten. Trim the ribbon ends at an angle.



## ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

## KEEP LEFTOVERS OUT OF LANDFILLS

The average person in the US throws away more than 200 pounds of uneaten food a year. This food waste is harmful to the environment because it contributes to landfills and wastes natural resources, such as water, that were used to produce the food. One way your family can reduce food waste is to eat leftovers before they spoil. You could designate one dinner a week as "leftover night," when you and your family make a meal from leftovers. Leftovers could also be packed to have for lunch. Try getting creative! For example, leftover chicken could be chopped up and added to a green salad or used in a quesadilla.

Turn leftovers into lunch.







## Word ladder

To change the word BACK into the word SEAT, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.



**BACK**

Place with an ATM ▶

Military position like Corporal or Sergeant ▶

Place to go ice skating ▶

Outer part of a lemon or watermelon ▶

Tie together tightly ▶

Ankles, knees, and other joints can do this ▶

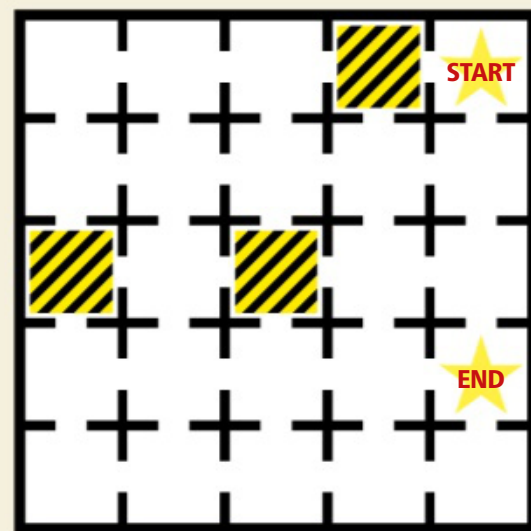
Craft item that's strung on a bracelet ▶

Outdo a sports opponent ▶

**SEAT**

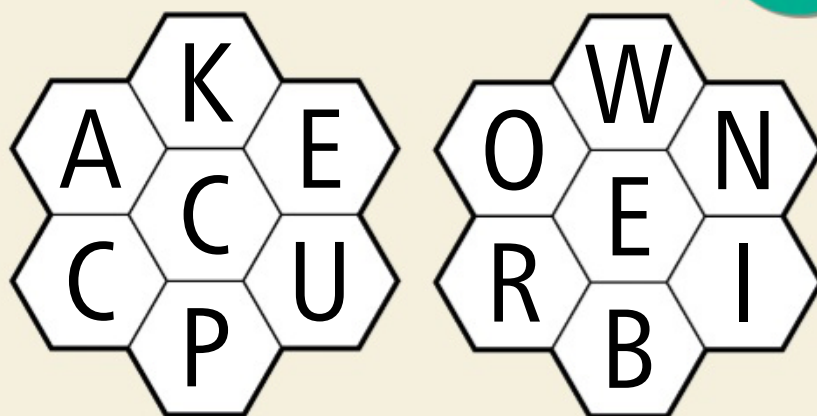
## DO NOT ENTER

Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every box except the ones containing obstacles. Your path may not cross itself, and there is only one solution.



## STEPPING STONES

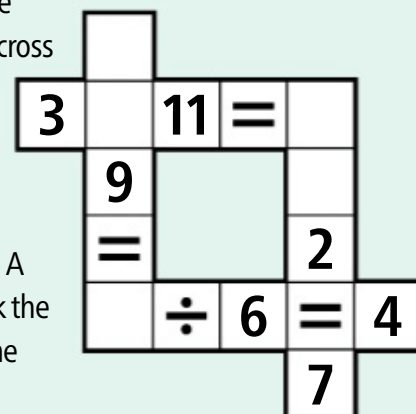
Each figure hides the name of a seven-letter bakery goodie. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once.



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

## Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, -, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



## Spot the difference

These two pictures of camping fun appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?







Some ap-peeling artwork

## Bruised bananas become art

Anna Chojnicka, an artist based in the UK, has been creating artwork by bruising the skins of bananas. She doesn't use pens, pencils, or paints but instead lightly presses into the skin with an object that isn't sharp. Over time, these invisible lines slowly start to become black, revealing her artwork. She has created more than 800 pieces of banana art, with subjects ranging from cartoon characters to animals. After taking photographs of the results, Chojnicka always finishes her work by eating the banana.

## Boat float takes flight

How would you feel if you looked up and saw a boat above your head? Ben Neale, a photographer from Australia, spent two months building a homemade aircraft from 8,000 separate parts. He then flew his craft, which includes an inflatable boat so he can take off and land from water, over the Solomon Islands in the southern Pacific Ocean. He took pictures of the islands from the sky and will share them online to raise money for charity.



Sailing the friendly skies



We're not kidding about these ears!

## Record-breaking ears

Days after being born in Pakistan, a baby Nubian goat named Simba won a world record for his extraordinary ears. This breed of goat is known for their long ears, which help keep them cool in hot weather, but Simba's are long even by Nubian standards. He wears a special harness for his ears, which were 19 inches long at birth and have since grown to 22 inches.

Real OR fake?

Was this the first hamstronaut?



## A hamster's adventure in space

A hamster was sent on an epic balloon trip 14 miles above the Earth's surface. Japanese space company Iwatani Giken put the hamster in a special airtight cabin and attached it to a flying balloon before launch. The rodent flew into a layer of the atmosphere called the stratosphere at a speed of 20 feet per second before safely returning to Earth. Despite the exciting nature of the trip, the hamster slept most of the time. Is this real, or is it a ham-handed lie?\*



Ah! Bath time again!

## Inventor replaces tick-tock with quack-quack

A recently released wristwatch doesn't tell time. "How many times do you look at a clock, or look at time, and are happy?" asked creator Kevin Bertolero. Instead, wearers of this watch who look at their wrists see a magnetic pool with movable rubber ducks and bubbles. Bertolero used 3D printing to create the watches, which have gone viral on TikTok. "It's nice to have this little wrist reminder that there are cute and happy things around you in the world," Bertolero said.

\*Real! The hamster really did go to the stratosphere. Iwatani Giken wants to make space travel available to ordinary people, so it launched the hamster into the stratosphere to show that it is safe.





# Your turn

## Editor's note

When NASA released the first images captured by the James Webb Space Telescope, many people were amazed by the quality (p3). Others, though, didn't immediately see the improvement over images taken by the Hubble telescope, which launched in 1990. That's when John Christensen, a software developer who was fascinated by space as a young boy, stepped in. He created an app that compared images from the Webb with images from the Hubble. As you can see at [webbcompare.com](http://webbcompare.com), the difference is striking! If you had a space telescope, what would you want to see first? Tell us on PopJam (see box on the next page). While you're thinking about that, I will express my gratitude to the Hubble for so many years of excellent work, to the Webb for its astonishing abilities, and to John Christensen for helping us see this scientific advancement clearly.

Andrea Barbalich  
Editor-in-Chief



## Delivering kits to help people

“I decided I wanted to help the homeless. My mom helped me come up with the idea to make hygiene kits to give to Project HOME. She worked with the organization once at her work. I couldn't have done this without my Girl Scout troop, also known as “The Havertown Helpers.” We made an assembly line so we could all make at least one kit. Some items that we put in the hygiene kits: toothpaste, toothbrushes, gloves, socks, tissues, hand sanitizer, foot cream, chapstick, and two snacks. I hope this inspires others to help people in need. If we want the world to eliminate homelessness, we can do it!”



Pippa, 8, Pennsylvania

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).

**JOKE OF THE WEEK**  
What is the tallest book in the world?  
Arabian Nights—it has 1,001 stories!

## Win free books and more!



There is still plenty of time to participate in our Summer of Reading sweepstakes. Now through August 19, all you have to do is read three books of your choice and fill out a form. Ask an

adult to go to [theweekjunior.com/summerofreading](http://theweekjunior.com/summerofreading) to get the form and then have them upload it to [tinyurl.com/TWJUS-readingsweeps](http://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-readingsweeps). You will be entered in our sweepstakes for a chance to win books and a personal video call with one of our Author Ambassadors. Five winners will be drawn at random. Complete rules are at [theweekjunior.com/terms](http://theweekjunior.com/terms).



## CHARITY OF THE WEEK



### Wild Earth Allies

Founded in 1981, this organization is dedicated to protecting the environment through local efforts. By working with people and groups in local communities, it can directly fund education programs and wildlife conservation efforts. The group has programs dedicated to protecting great apes in Africa and sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean. It also works to save threatened trees around the world. Find out more at [wildearthallies.org](http://wildearthallies.org).



THE WEEK  
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).





## YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com), along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.



"California had a massive heat wave, so I was inspired to make popsicles. They were delicious, and I'll make them again soon!" **Sindhuja, 14, California**

"We loved reading the Fenway Park history because we were going to our first Red Sox game on July 4th!" **Maya, 12, Ellie and Julia, 13, Massachusetts**



"I really love reading *The Week Junior*. I take it with me wherever I go." **Nicholas, 12, Texas**

## POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjunior on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7-12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: Would you rather swim in a pool or the ocean?

"Pool, because I don't get salt water in my eyes."

"The ocean, there's a bigger space to swim around in."

"Pool because you won't disturb any ocean life and habitats."

"I like the ocean because of all the waves! But if I'm with a lot of my friends, the pool is better"

In the big debate, we asked: Is artificial grass better than real grass?

"No, I like real grass because it feels more natural."

"With artificial grass you can play after it rains."

"Real grass is probably better for local wildlife and other nature."

"Artificial grass, because it feels good on my feet."

Now tell us: If you had a telescope that could see into space, what would you want to view first?

## Teacher OF THE WEEK



Teacher's Name: **Mr. Beutel**

School: **Ramapo Ridge Middle School**

"Our social studies teacher, Mr. Beutel, is always kind and loves what he does! He listens to us have discussions and has thoughtful input on what we have to say. He is understanding toward students and gives everybody a chance. In the afternoon when I walk into his class, I feel happy to learn! He makes learning a fun experience, and when it gets hard, he's there to help!"

Alexandria, 13, New Jersey

**Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).**



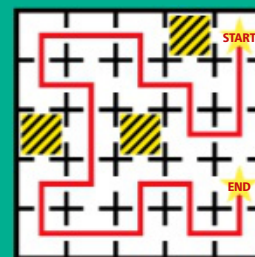
## Puzzle answers (from page 26)

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ 3 + 11 = 14 \\ 9 \div 2 = 4 \\ 24 \div 6 = 7 \end{array}$$

### Word ladder

b a c k  
b a n k  
r i n k  
r i n d  
b i n d  
b e n d  
b e a d  
b e a t  
s e a t

Stepping stones  
cupcake, brownie



## Answer Key (from page 30)

1 c) A glove 2 c) Texas 3 Gold 4 c) 86 5 True 6 b) 8:30 am 7 False. She has won 11. 8 a) Cat 9 c) A jet suit 10 Greenland 11 Yu-Gi-Oh! 12 True 13 c) 34 14 False. She is focused on the first Debate Club meeting. 15 Simba

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.





# Quiz of the week

## How much of this week's news can you remember?

**1** In *Kung Fu Panda: The Dragon Knight*, what is Po trying to stop two weasels from stealing?

a) A belt b) A boot c) A glove

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**2** What style of barbecue is known for its cuts of beef called brisket?

a) Carolina b) Memphis c) Texas

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**3** The James Webb Space Telescope has 18 mirrors covered in a layer of what material?

**4** How many orphaned cheetahs were taken in by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia?

a) 36 b) 76 c) 86

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**5** True or false? In the Apple TV+ series *Best Foot Forward*, the actor who plays Josh has a prosthetic leg.

True ☐ False ☐

**6** Starting July 1, California public high schools can't start class before what time?

a) 8:00 am b) 8:30 am c) 9:00 am

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

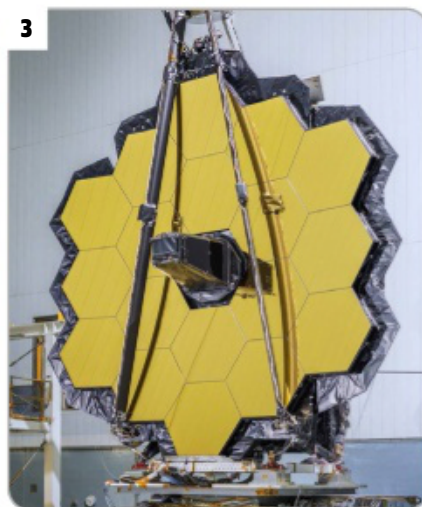
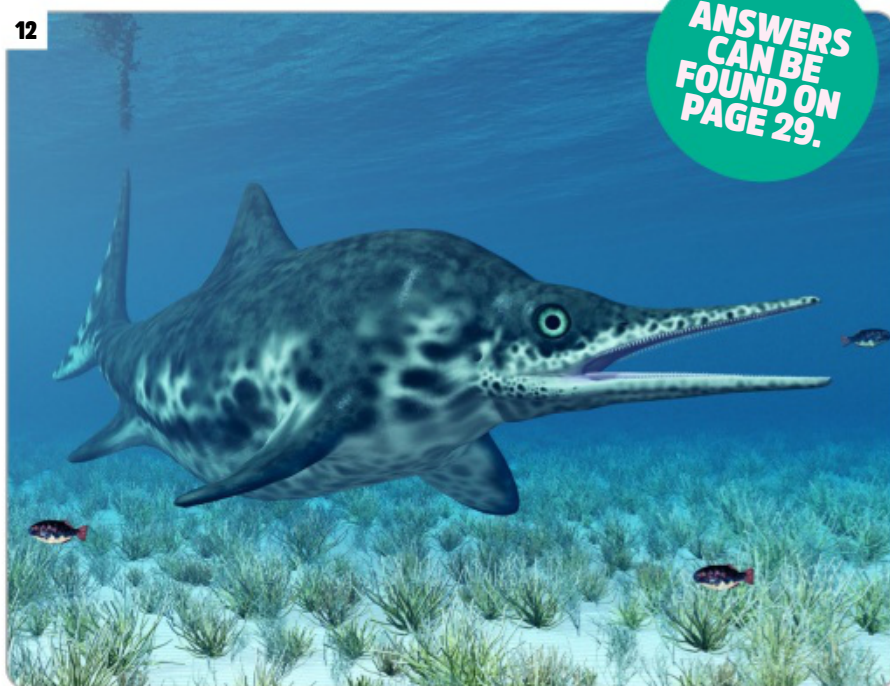
**7** True or false? Track star Allyson Felix has won five Olympic medals.

True ☐ False ☐

**8** In the new adventure game *Stray*, users play as what type of animal?

a) Cat b) Dog c) Rabbit

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.

**9** Medical crews in the UK hope to reach injured people faster using what form of transportation?

a) A horse

b) A parachute

c) A jet suit

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**10** A new population of polar bears has been discovered in what country?

**11** Japanese manga artist Kazuki Takahashi created what popular comic series?

**12** True or false? The prehistoric reptile called an ichthyosaur belonged to the same animal group as today's crocodiles, lizards, and turtles.

True ☐ False ☐

**13** How many different sports were featured in the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, Alabama?

a) 24 b) 33 c) 34

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**14** True or false? In the book *Simon B. Rhyming Takes a Stand*, Simon's best friend is focused on the first Theater Club meeting.

True ☐ False ☐

**15** What is the name of the Nubian goat who set a record for the world's longest ears?

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**It's time to test your knowledge of all things totally random and totally COOL!**

**1.** To start, flip to the game board on pages 22 and 23 of this issue. **2.** Cut and fold the question cards below and place them—with the questions facing up—in the center of the board. **3.** Place all player pieces (coins, paper clips, erasers—whatever you have!) on START and designate a Question Master from your group. **4.** Starting with the player to the right of them, have the Question Master read the first question card. **5.** For each TRUE or FALSE question answered correctly, the player can move their piece forward one space. If they answer incorrectly, they must move backward one space. For each MULTIPLE CHOICE question answered correctly, move forward two spaces. For each answered incorrectly, move back two spaces. **6.** Continue around the circle until someone reaches the finish line and wins!



## QUESTION CARDS

To find more questions and enter for a chance to win the Totally Random Kids book series, visit [theweekjunior.com/totallyrandom](http://theweekjunior.com/totallyrandom).

**QUESTION**

**True or False:**  
**It's impossible to breathe and swallow at the same time.**

**ANSWER**

**True**

Breathing and swallowing at the same time is impossible. That's because the throat has two parts with two different functions that have to take turns. This coordination prevents air from going into the stomach, and liquid and food from going into the lungs. Each process uses a different part of the throat.

**Instant Genius:** We swallow around 600 times a day.

**QUESTION**

**How many hairs per square inch does a house cat have?**

**a. Between 10,000 and 15,000**

**b. Between 35,000 and 45,000**

**c. Over 60,000**

**ANSWER**

**c. Over 60,000**

Most house cats have about 60,000 hairs per square inch on their bodies and heads, and double on their bellies! In comparison, humans have just 800 to 1,290 hairs per square inch on their heads. Whiskers are not like other fur! These specialized hairs help kitties navigate their environment, providing additional sensory input, much like antennae on insects.

**QUESTION**

**Who invented lacrosse?**

**a. Ancient Egyptians**

**b. Native Americans**

**c. Ancient Romans**

**ANSWER**

**b. Native Americans**

Lacrosse was invented by the Algonquin tribe, who today live mainly on the border between the Northern US and Canada. Over time, the Algonquin taught the game to other Native Americans. Each tribe had a different name for the sport, but the most common was "baggataway." The ball was originally a solid piece of wood. As many as 100,000 players would show up to play in competitive games that would last for days.

**QUESTION**

**True or False:**  
**Da Vinci's Mona Lisa lost her eyebrows.**

**ANSWER**

**True**

As paintings age, they tend to chip and fade. Since the *Mona Lisa* is about 500 years old, it looks a little different today from when it was painted. A French engineer wanted to know what the woman may have looked like when she was newly made. He developed a camera to take extremely detailed scans of the painting. He could see paint that had faded. Today if you look at the woman in the painting, you'll notice she doesn't have any eyebrows or lashes. What the engineer discovered, however, is that the *Mona Lisa* used to have both!

**QUESTION**

**How many stones did it take to build the Great Pyramid of Giza?**

**a. 150,000**

**b. 1 million**

**c. 2.3 million**

**ANSWER**

**c. 2.3 million**

Standing at 481 feet (147 m) tall, the Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the most impressive structures in the world. It was built around 4,500 years ago for an Egyptian pharaoh named Khufu. The Great Pyramid of Giza is made up of 2.3 million stones, some weighing as much as 15 tons, or twice as much as an elephant!

**Instant Genius:** Of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramid of Giza is the only one still standing.

**QUESTION**

**What was the first toy to be advertised on TV?**

**a. Barbie**

**b. Mr. Potato Head**

**c. LEGO bricks**

**ANSWER**

**b. Mr. Potato Head**

On April 30, 1952, Mr. Potato Head became the first toy to be advertised on television. Invented by George Lerner, it grew to be a huge success, selling over a million units in the first year.

**Instant Genius:** The very first Mr. Potato Head kit cost 98 cents.





## FRENCH FLOWERS

Lavender, shown here growing in southeastern France, has been prized for its strong, sweet scent since ancient Roman times.